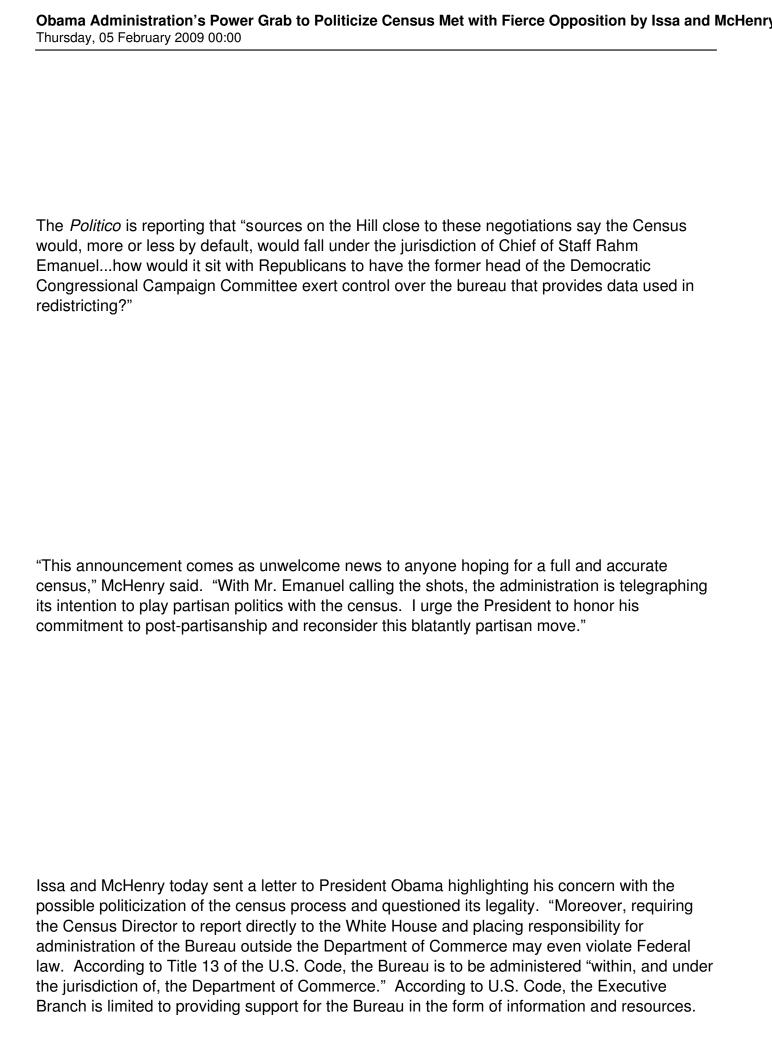
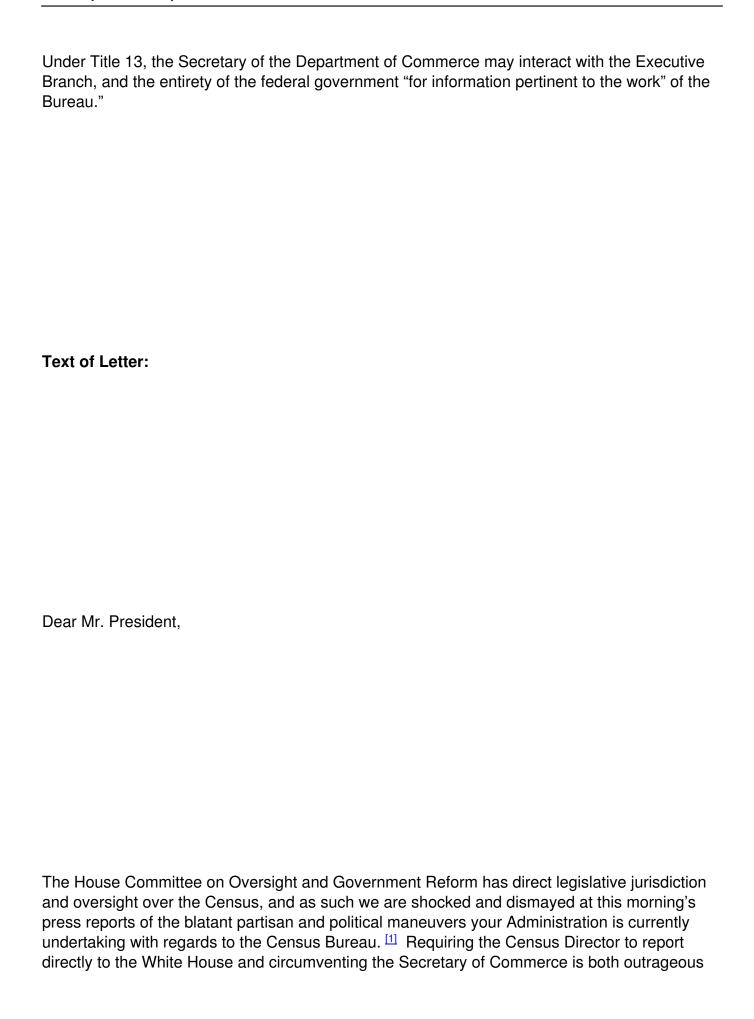
<b>WASHINGTON. D.C.</b> – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee Ranking Member Patrick McHenry (R-NC) expressed significant opposition to the Obama Administration's reported plan to politicize the nonpartisan census process.
"Any attempt by the Obama Administration to circumvent the census process for their political benefit will be met with fierce opposition as this ill-conceived proposal undermines a constitutionally obligated process that speaks to the very heart of our democracy," said Issa. "President Obama's calls for bipartisanship are severely damaged when reports indicate they're maneuvering to stab Republicans in the back through a national gerrymander orchestrated directly by the White House."
Congressionally Quarterly reported earlier today that "The director of the Census Bureau will report directly to the White House and not the secretary of Commerce, according to a senior White House official. The decision came after black and Hispanic leaders raised questions about Commerce Secretary nominee Judd Gregg's commitment to funding the census."





and unprecedented.

Requiring the Census Director to report directly to White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel is a shamefully transparent attempt by your Administration to politicize the Census Bureau and manipulate the 2010 Census. [2] The Constitutionally-mandated Decennial Census needs to be fair, accurate and trusted. By circumventing the Secretary of Commerce's oversight of the Census Bureau and handing it directly to a political operative such as Mr. Emanuel, you are severely jeopardizing the fairness and accuracy of the 2010 Census. Mr. Emanuel, who is a former colleague and Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman, has a reputation that has been described as "one of hyper-partisanship,"

and thus has no business overseeing the activities of the Census Bureau, a division of the Commerce Department that needs to remain free and clear of any and all political considerations.

Moreover, requiring the Census Director to report directly to the White House and placing responsibility for administration of the Bureau outside the Department of Commerce may even violate Federal law. According to Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Bureau is to be administered "within, and under the jurisdiction of, the Department of Commerce." [4] According to U.S. Code, the Executive Branch is limited to providing support for the Bureau in the form of information and resources. Under Title 13, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce may interact with the Executive Branch, and the entirety of the federal government "for information pertinent to the work" of the Bureau.

[5]

rou know, the Decennial Census is not only Constitutionally-mandated; the results of it are ted in the allocation of federal funding and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of resentatives. As such, the Census process needs to be completely free of political ipulation and interference, in order to produce fair, accurate and trustworthy results. This perimpossible if you follow through with proposed plans to outrageously and without redence circumvent the Secretary of Commerce and place direct oversight of the Census seau in the hands of the hyper-partisan White House Chief of Staff. This decision will also ardize Census Program funding and trigger unanimous opposition to your next Census cotor out of fear that a respectable Federal agency is being politicized. For these reasons espectfully request that you not follow through with a course of action that will shamefully icize the operations of the Census Bureau and jeopardize the fairness and accuracy of the O Census.
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Obama Administration's Power Grab to Politicize Census Met with Fierce Opposition by Issa and McHenry